*To Kill a Mockingbird* \*\*\*Due on Thursday, November 8\*\*\*

Reading Log 12

Chapters 26-27: Pages 241-254

**Before Reading…**

*Glossary of Terms*: Read the chart on the back of this sheet to familiarize yourself with the historical concepts. It will help you understand the plot of the chapters.

*Vocab*: Find the words below in a dictionary and write their definitions down.

* spurious (pg. 244): “a publication **spurious** in the eyes of Miss Gates”
* annals (pg. 248): “unique in the **annals** of the nineteen thirties”
* notoriety (pg. 248): “his job lasted only as long as his **notoriety**”
* nondescript (pg. 248): “his fat **nondescript** dog”
* purloined (pg. 252): “fur sellers who came through town two days ago had **purloined** their furniture”

**After Reading…**

*Visualize*: Draw pictures to represent the following descriptions.

* Bob Ewell treats Helen Robinson oddly. What kinds of things does he do to her?
* Scout is cast in the school musical. What does her costume look like?

*Author’s Thoughts*: Explain what the following quotes mean and why the author included them.

* “I sometimes felt a twinge of remorse, when passing by the old place, at ever having taken part in what must have been sheer torment for Arthur Radley – what reasonable recluse wants children peeping through his shutters, delivering greetings on the end of a fishing pole, wandering in his collards at night?” (pg. 242).
* “… few rural children had access to newspapers, so the burden of Current Events was borne by the town children…” (pg. 244)
* Miss Gates: “That’s the difference between America and Germany. We are a democracy and Germany is a dictatorship… Over here we don’t believe in persecuting anybody. Persecution comes from people who are prejudiced.” (pg. 245).

*Reflection*: Write 2-3 sentences to give your opinion on the questions below.

* Scout’s teacher, Miss Gates, tells the class that Americans are not prejudiced, but supported the prosecution of Tom Robinson in her own town. Do you think there are racists in the United States today? Do you think they know they are racist?
* Aside from racism in the United States, what other types of prejudice do you see? (hint: Consider religion, gender, language, age, sexual orientation, and economic class).

***Glossary of Terms***

Chapters 26 and 27 are full of historical references that you may not be familiar with. The chart below offers you a general description of each term.

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| **Term** | **Description** | **Page #** |
| Uncle Natchell | Uncle Natchell, along with his sidekick, was the cartoon mascot for a fertilizer product called Natural Chilean Nitrate of Soda. The advertisements included stories about Uncle Natchell and his adventures. | 244 |
| Adolf Hitler | The vicious ruler of Germany during the mid-1900s who invaded most of Europe and sent millions to their deaths in concentration camps. He was known for his hatred of Jews, homosexuals, and people of any color other than Caucasian. | 244 |
| Elmer Davis | A well-known news reporter during the mid-1900s and director of the United States Office of War Information during WWII. | 246 |
| WPA | An abbreviation for the “Works Progress Administration” – an American government program put into place during the Great Depression. The program hired unemployed workers and paid them to complete public projects, such as building roads and schools. | 248 |
| Ladies’ Law | An Alabama law that made it illegal to speak foul words or cuss at a female, and punishable by a large fine and community service for six months. | 250 |
| Radical | A term for a person who was extremely liberal in the South, usually used in a negative context. | 250 |
| Cotton Tom Heflin | An Alabama senator who believed in white supremacy, meaning that white people should have the most power and wealth in society. | 250 |
| NRA | An abbreviation for the “National Recovery Act” – an American government policy that gave the President permission to put programs like the WPA into place. It was used to help solve the economic crisis during the Great Depression. | 251 |
| Victrolas | The name of a famous brand of phonographs, which were the original record players. They played music for parties and were considered a trendy technology in the 1930s. | 251 |
| *Maycomb County:*  *Ad Astra Per Aspera* | The name of the town musical. The phrase “ad astra per aspera” is Latin for “a rough road leads to the stars”. | 252 |